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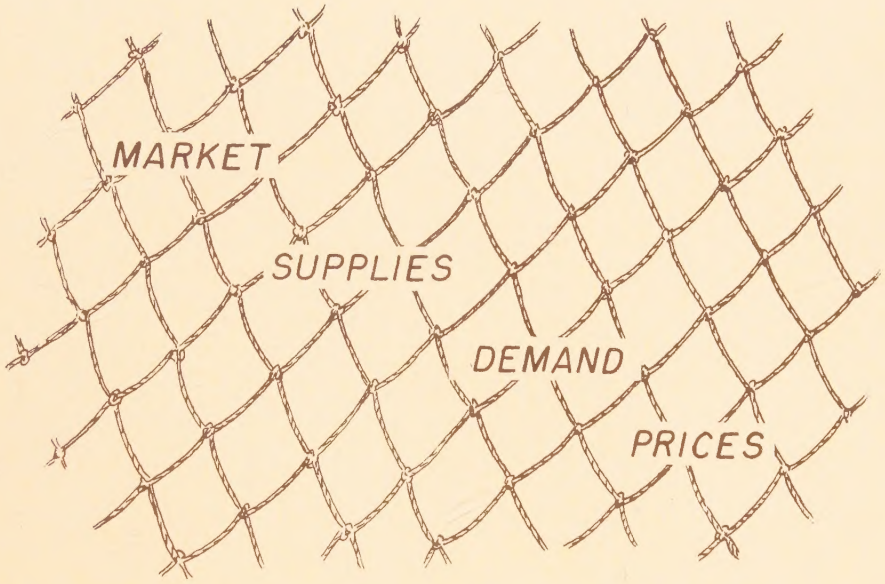
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK



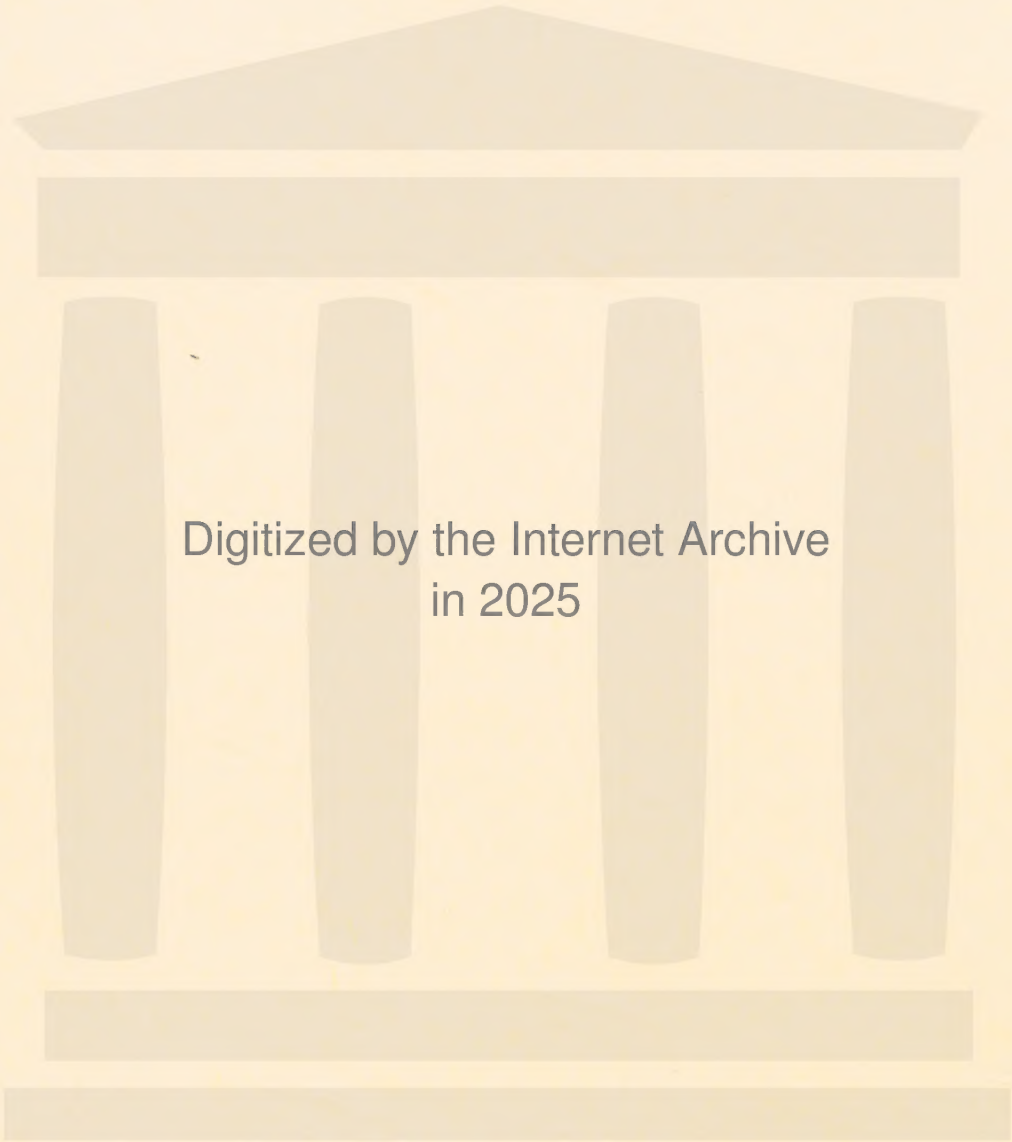
October - December 1959

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Department of the Interior

Washington , D.C.

Fishery Leaflet 336 pp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United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

Fishery Leaflet 336 pp

Washington 25, D. C. October 1959

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Prepared in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

October - December 1959

THE OUTLOOK AT A GLANCE

BUSINESS ACTIVITY	Business confidence is high despite labor problems and work stoppages.
FOOD	Supplies generally plentiful with wheat crop down 25 percent, but livestock and livestock products up.
FISHERY PRODUCTION	Beginning seasonal decline. Stocks very high.
MARKETS, EDIBLE FISH	Generally steady.
PRICES	Firm for most species.
EXPORTS	Continued improvement for many items.
IMPORTS	High for groundfish fillets and blocks, tuna, shrimp, and fish meal.
DEMAND	Good for most species.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Industrial output and employment levels continued to decline in August and early September. The impact of the work stoppages in basic metals industries is being felt more generally. Consumer and business demands were maintained at advanced levels, and prices of some basic materials increased.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION - During August, the industrial production index declined to 149 percent of the 1947-49 average, compared with an index of 153 in July and a peak of 155 in June. The August decline was centered in primary manufacturing and mining industries as the steel strike continued. Steel ingot production was at 12 percent of capacity, compared with 42 percent in July and 90 percent in June. In the automobile industry, assemblies were down 16 percent from the advanced rate reached in July.

CONSTRUCTION - The seasonally adjusted total value of new construction in August was close to the peak annual rate of about $56 billion reached in the spring. Some decline in residential construction and a small decrease in commercial building in August were not completely offset by gains in highway and industrial building activity.

EMPLOYMENT - Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased to 52 million in mid-August, as a result of strike influences. Earnings of factory workers declined somewhat, reflecting work stoppages in higher paid manufacturing industries. Unemployment decreased about 320,000 to 3.4 million. This was less than the usual seasonal decline, and the result was an increase in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to 5.5 percent from 5.1 percent in July.

COMMODITY PRICES - Prices of basic materials, which were relatively stable during the first month of the steel strike, began to increase again in August. Prices of livestock and other foodstuffs remained at earlier reduced levels, reflecting continuing large supplies. Consumer prices generally rose further, by 0.3 percent, from June to July, and the total index was 0.8 percent above a year ago, although retail food prices were 2 percent lower.

DISTRIBUTION - Retail sales in August remained near the level of the previous three months and were 7 percent larger than a year ago. Sales at furniture and food stores were somewhat higher. Deliveries of new autos to dealers reached the highest August rate since 1955. Trade in most other lines declined moderately.

THE FOOD SITUATION

FOOD OUTLOOK

Indications are that the crop output this year totals only a shade under the record of 1958. The wheat crop is about 25 percent smaller but the corn crop is about 600 million bushels above last year's record. Since production of livestock products is running above a year ago, total farm output of both crops and livestock this year is expected to be slightly larger than in 1958 and about 25 percent higher than the 1947-49 average.

MEATS

Livestock production continues upward. Increase in cattle numbers this year estimated at about 5 million head. Marketing of pork will near seasonal peak in October. Hog slaughter as well as pork supplies expected to continue heavy at least into early 1960. Pork prices are likely to remain well below a year earlier through this winter.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Supplies of broilers and fryers over the next couple of months will be ample for seasonally reduced demand. Turkey supplies are increasing seasonally. The 82 million turkeys being raised this year are 5 percent more than last year's production. Egg production is now near the seasonal low point, though slightly above a year earlier.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Milk supplies will be ample, though production is declining seasonally. Supply-demand balance somewhat improved, compared with 1958. Production of butter has declined 12 percent in recent weeks and American cheese production dropped 7 percent from year earlier levels.

VEGETABLES

The total supply of canned vegetables this year probably will be about the same as last. Smaller packs of tomatoes and green peas are expected, but increases in sweet corn, snap beans, and spinach. Frozen vegetable supplies expected to run moderately above last year and considerably above average.

FATS AND OILS

Record supplies of edible fats, oils, and oilseeds will be available in the 1959-60 marketing year. The quantity of food fats available will permit substantially greater exports in 1959-60 than the record 3.3 billion pounds estimated for 1958-59. Soybean supplies are expected to be close to the peak of last year, with increased stocks about offsetting lower production. Domestic disappearance of food fats and oils will probably be a little higher than that of last year, though on a per capita basis it will most likely be unchanged.

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

UNITED STATES LANDINGS of fish and shellfish during the first seven months of 1959 were 17 percent higher than those in the same period of the previous year. The menhaden catch was up 437 million pounds, compared with the same period in 1958. Increased landings were registered in New England for Maine herring (up 8 million pounds) and whiting (up 6 million pounds). Ocean perch and haddock landings declined by 12 million and 10 million pounds respectively from those in the first seven months of last year.

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS of edible fishery products on September 1, 1959, totaled 208.8 million pounds, about 30.1 million pounds more than those a year earlier, and 32.7 million pounds more than on September 1, 1957. Total shrimp holdings were almost 13 million pounds higher than those of a year ago. Holdings of crab meat, ocean perch, sablefish, salmon, whiting, and some species of fresh-water fish were lower.

PACK OF CANNED SALMON in Alaska in 1959 was 41 percent lower than the pack in 1958. Pinks represented 38 percent of the total pack, while reds and chums were 33 percent and 23 percent respectively.

PACK OF CANNED TUNA in California through August was about 8.1 million cases, an increase of 3 percent compared with the same period in 1958. However, because of vessel tie ups, pack is expected to fall behind towards the end of the year.

PRODUCTION OF PORTIONS increased 76 percent during the first half of 1959 compared with that in the same six month period of last year.

EXPORTS OF SARDINES, canned not-in-oil, in the first seven months of 1959 amounted to 18.8 million pounds, almost 5 times more than in the same period last year.

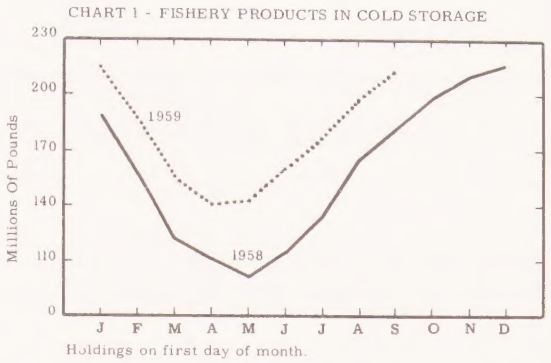
SHRIMP IMPORTS, through July, were 50 percent higher than in the corresponding period in 1958.

Fishery Products in Cold-Storage

September 1

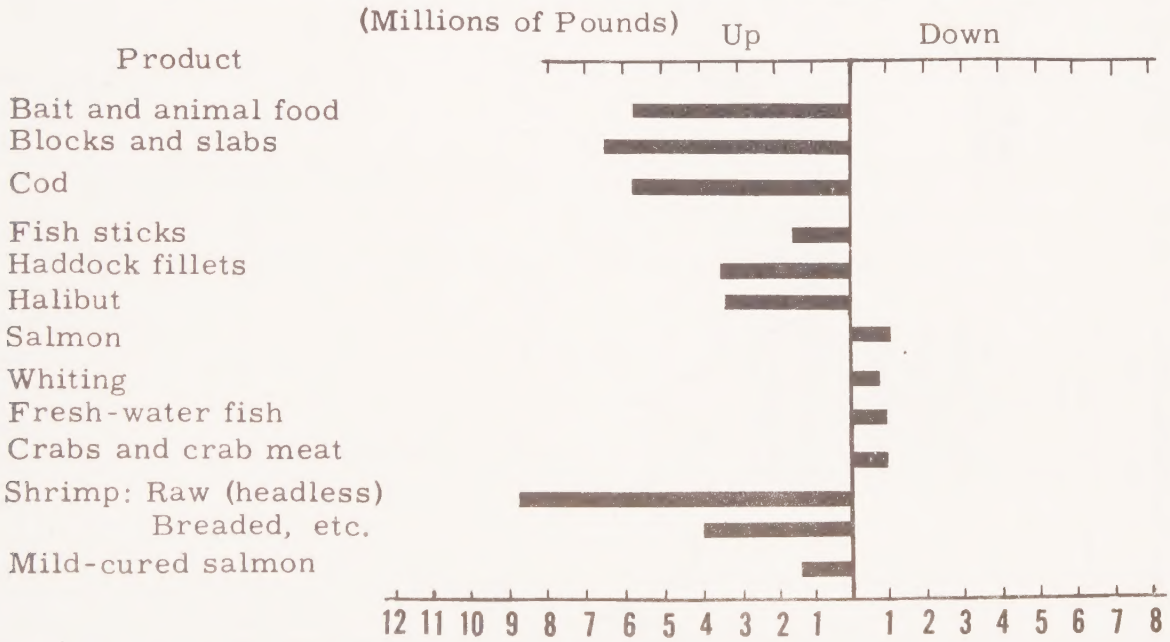
1959.....223,469,000 Lbs.

1958.....187,678,000 Lbs.



Cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish on September 1, 1959 were 19 percent higher than those of a year ago. Bait and animal food comprised almost 7 percent of the total holdings. The accompanying chart indicates inventory changes for certain species.

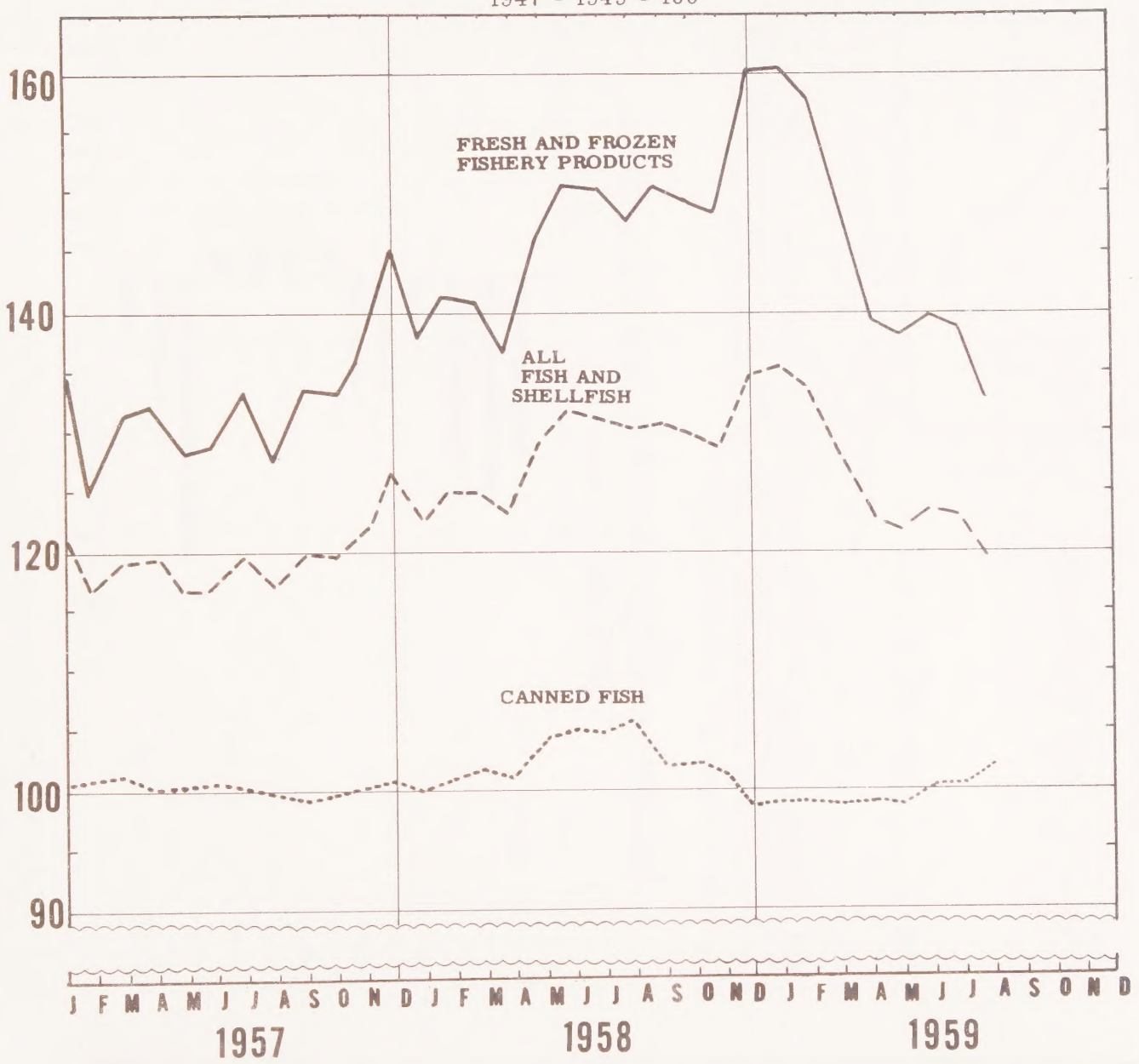
September 1, 1959 Compared With September 1, 1958



The wholesale price index for all fish and shellfish during August, 1959 was 119.8, a decrease of 10.1 points from that a year earlier. Fresh and frozen fishery products had an index decrease of 14.4 points, and the index for canned fish dropped 3.7 points (Chart 2).

CHART 2 - INDEXES OF WHOLESALE FISH PRICES

1947 - 1949 = 100


160
140
120
100
90
FRESH AND FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH
CANNED FISH
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1957
1958
1959

Salt-water Fish

ANCHOVIES, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Landings are at a record low and no improvement is in sight during the last quarter.

Pack - During the first eight months of 1959, the pack of canned anchovies amounted to only 2,050 cases, whereas, during the same period in 1958, about 53,800 cases were produced.

Prices are high and will remain firm during the fourth quarter.

FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS

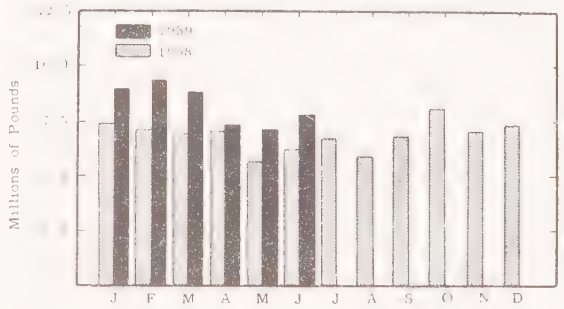
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production, January - June

1959.....49,481,000 Lbs.

1958.....40,656,000 Lbs.

CHART 3 - PRODUCTION OF FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS



During the first six months of 1959, the fish stick and portion production in the United States was about 22 percent greater than during the same period in 1958 (Chart 3). Portions accounted for 17.5 million pounds of the total and represented a 76 percent increase compared with the same period last year. Breaded uncooked portions amounted to 13.5 million pounds, while breaded cooked portions totaled only 2.6 million pounds. Unbreaded portions production was 1.4 million pounds during the first six months of 1959.

FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS (Cont.)

Cold-Storage Holdings

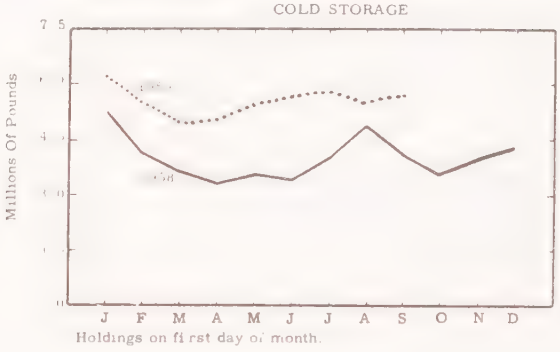
Fish Sticks and Portions

September 1

1959..... 5,701,000 Lbs.

1958..... 4,145,000 Lbs.

CHART 4 - FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-Storage Holdings

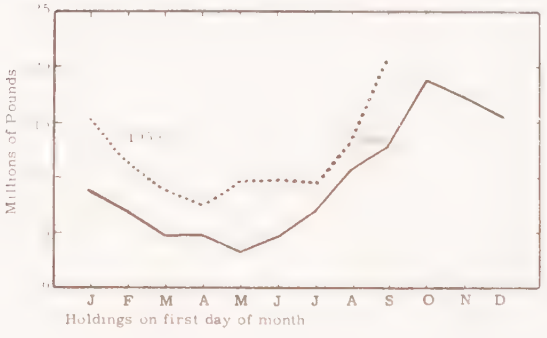
Blocks and Slabs

September 1

1959..... 20,677,000 Lbs.

1958..... 14,192,000 Lbs.

CHART 5 - BLOCKS AND SLABS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of fish sticks and portions on September 1 were about 38 percent higher than those on September 1, 1958 (Chart 4). Blocks and slabs in cold storage were 46 percent greater than those a year earlier (Chart 5). Stocks last year were below normal.

Prices of fish sticks and portions are expected to remain steady.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

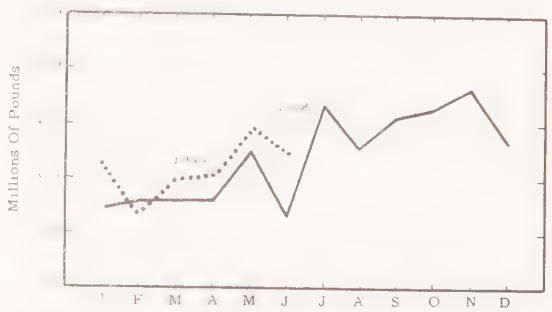
Massachusetts Landings

January - June

1959.....20,902,000 Lbs.

1958.....19,261,277 Lbs

CHART 6 - LANDINGS OF FLOUNDER AND SOLE, MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of flounder and sole in Massachusetts during the first six months of 1959 were 9 percent higher than those during January - June, 1958 (Chart 6). Small flounders will probably be predominant during the next quarter.

Cold-Storage Holdings

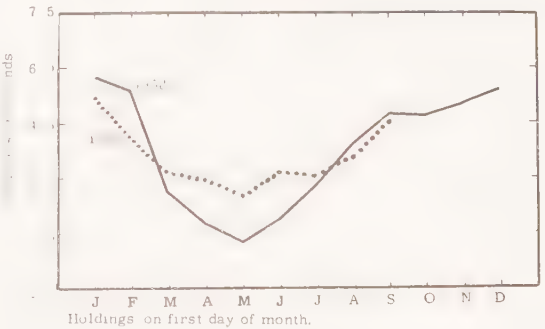
September 1

(Fillets)

1959.....4,602,000 Lbs.

1958.....4,779,000 Lbs.

CHART 7 - FLOUNDER AND SOLE FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of flounder and sole fillets on September 1, 1959 were 4 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 7). Supplies should be at a higher level during the last quarter 1959 than they were last year.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE (Cont.)

Imports, January - July

(Fillets)

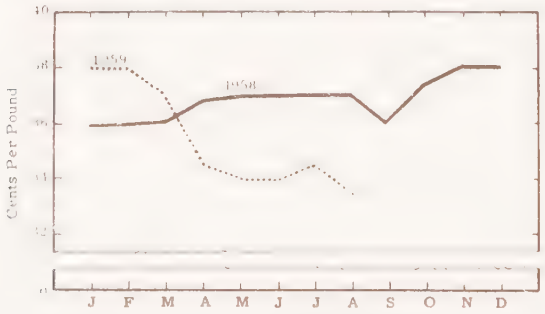
1959.....7,219,000 Lbs.

1958.....8,371,000 Lbs.

Imports of flounder and sole during the first seven months of 1959 decreased by about 14 percent from imports during January - July, 1958.

Prices, which have gradually dropped during the year, are expected to continue to decline further during the fourth quarter (Chart 8).

CHART 8 - WHOLESALE PRICES OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER FILLETS



Average price, 5 lb carton, skinless, at Boston.

GROUNDFISH FILLETS, INCLUDING OCEAN PERCH

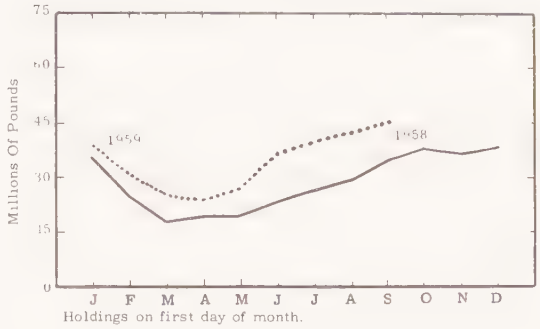
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959..... 45,603,000 Lbs.

1958..... 36,173,000 Lbs.

CHART 9 - GROUNDFISH FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE
(EXCLUDING BLOCKS)



Holdings on first day of month.

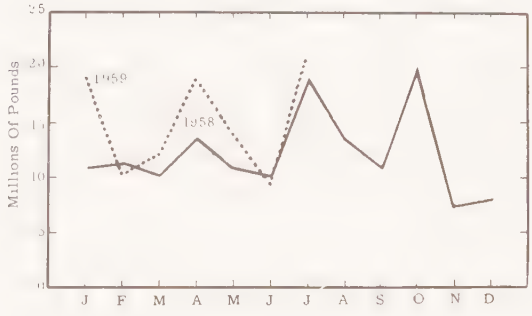
On September 1, the cold-storage holdings of groundfish fillets, excluding blocks and slabs, were 26 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 9). A continued inventory build-up is expected during the fourth quarter.

Imports, January - July

1959..... 104,791,000 Lbs.

1958..... 90,334,000 Lbs.

CHART 10 - IMPORTS OF GROUNDFISH FILLETS
(INCLUDING BLOCKS)



Imports of groundfish fillets, including blocks, during the first seven months of 1959 increased 16 percent compared with the corresponding period of last year (Chart 10). Canada accounted for 46 percent of the total, while imports from Iceland represented 29 percent. About 12 million pounds of groundfish fillets were received from Denmark during this period.

COD FILLETS

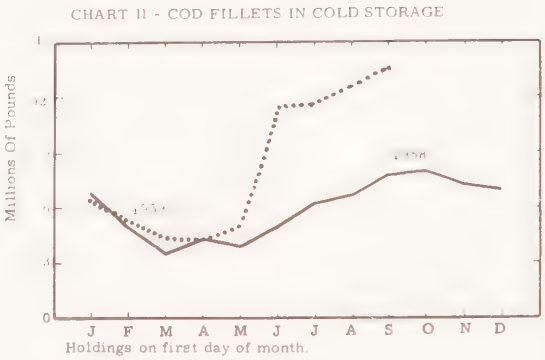
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959..... 13,603,000 Lbs.

1958..... 7,915,000 Lbs.



Cold-storage holdings of cod fillets on September 1 were 72 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 11). This higher than normal inventory at this time of the year could cause some price decline in this species. Stocks last year were below normal.

Landings will begin to taper off during the fourth quarter.

Imports, January - July

1959.....36,695,000 Lbs.

1958.....28,132,000 Lbs.

Imports of cod fillets during the first seven months of 1959 continued heavy and were about 30 percent greater than those during January - July, 1958. Imports should remain high during the fourth quarter.

HADDOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959.....10,187,000 Lbs.

1958..... 6,664,000 Lbs.

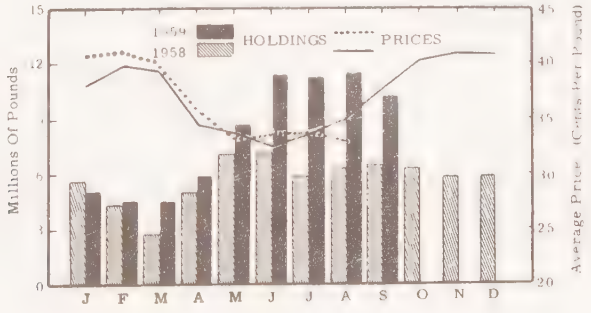
Cold-storage holdings of haddock fillets on September 1 were about 53 percent higher than the lower than normal holdings a year earlier (Chart 12).

Landings have been good, but below normal, and are expected to taper off even more during the late fall and winter months.

Imports of haddock fillets during the first seven months of 1959 amounted to almost 20 million pounds compared with 16.2 million pounds in the same period last year.

Prices are expected to level off after dropping to the lowest figure since mid-1958 (Chart 12).

CHART 12 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF HADDOCK FILLETS



Holdings - First day of Month.
Prices - 1-lb. small, skins on, at Boston

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

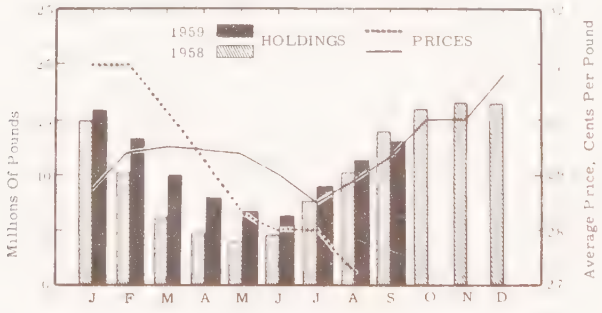
September 1

1959.....13,049,000 Lbs.

1958.....14,109,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of ocean perch fillets on September 1 were almost 8 percent lower than those a year earlier (Chart 13).

CHART 13 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF OCEAN PERCH FILLETS



Holdings - First Day Of Month
Price - 1-lb. carton, large, skins on, at Boston

Prices continue to drop and in August, they reached the lowest level since October, 1957. They should strengthen during the fourth quarter (Chart 13).

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS (Cont.)

Imports

January - July

1959.....9,685,000 Lbs.

1958.....9,412,000 Lbs.

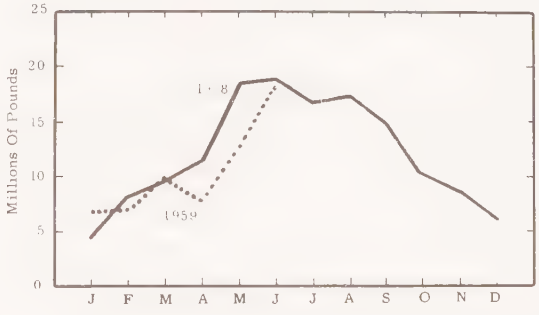
Imports of ocean perch fillets through July 1959 were only 3 percent higher than those during the same period in 1958. There was a considerable decline in these imports during June and July this year compared with the same months last year.

Landings, January - June

1959.....63,279,000 Lbs.

1958.....73,014,000 Lbs.

CHART 14 - LANDINGS OF OCEAN PERCH, MAINE AND MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of ocean perch in Maine and Massachusetts during the first six months of 1959 were about 13 percent lower than the January - June landings in 1958 (Chart 14). Seasonal drop in landings will occur in the fourth quarter.

HALIBUT

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Landings of halibut during the first eight months of 1959, at all Pacific ports, totaled about 66 million pounds. This was 13 percent higher than landings of halibut through August of last year. Indications are that the total catch will be as good or better than last year.

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

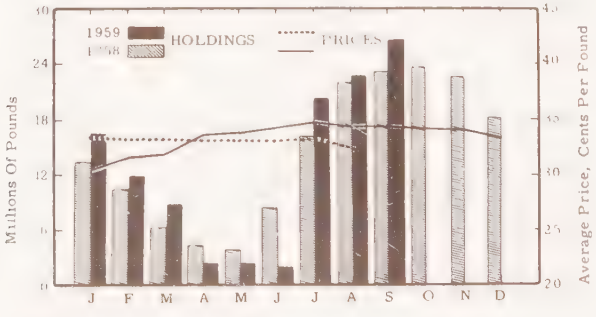
1959.....26,621,000 Lbs.

1958.....23,202,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of halibut on September 1, 1959 were about 15 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 15).

Prices, during August, were about 6 percent lower than last year (Chart 15) but 10 percent higher than in August, 1957. Price should remain rather steady during the fourth quarter.

CHART 15 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF HALIBUT



Holdings - First Day Of Month
Price - Western dressed, 20-80 lbs., frozen, at New York

MACKEREL, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-storage holdings of mackerel (except Spanish) on September 1 were about 10 percent below those a year earlier. The September 1, 1959 holdings were 943,000 pounds compared with 1,040,000 pounds on the same date last year.

Landings of mackerel will be seasonally light along the Atlantic Coast in the fourth quarter.

Prices should not fluctuate very much.

MACKEREL, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

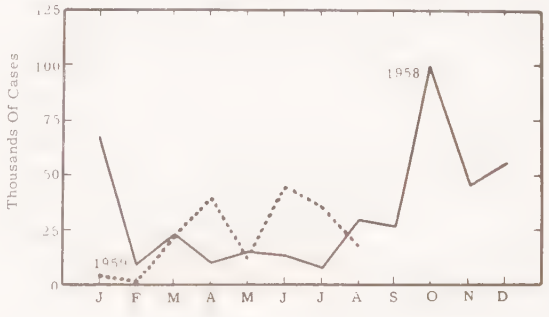
Pack of Pacific and Jack Mackerel

January - August

1959.....176,609 Std. Cases

1958.....169,393 Std. Cases

CHART 16 - CALIFORNIA PACK OF CANNED JACK AND PACIFIC MACKEREL



The pack of canned mackerel through August was only 4 percent higher than the very low pack during the first eight months of 1958 (Chart 16). Although landings continue very light, some improvement is anticipated during the last quarter.

SABLEFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Good

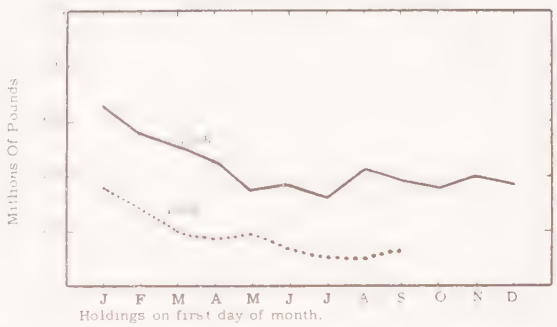
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959.....1,029,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,866,000 Lbs.

CHART 17 - SABLEFISH (BLACK COD) IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of sablefish on September 1 were 64 percent below those a year earlier (Chart 17). The season closes on November 15 and by that time some inventory improvement is expected.

Prices are higher this season, but are expected to remain firm in the fourth quarter.

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

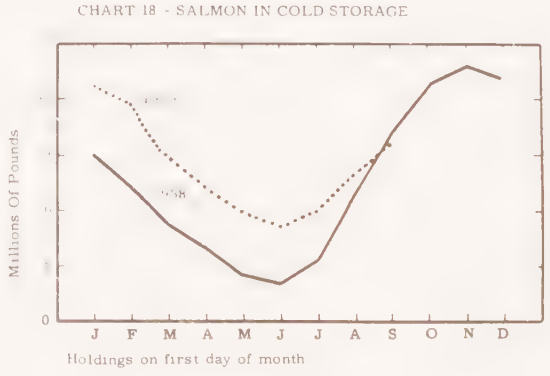
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959..... 9,358,000 Lbs.

1958.....10,409,000 Lbs.

CHART 18 - SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of frozen salmon on September 1 were about 10 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 18).

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN (Cont.)

Imports

January - July

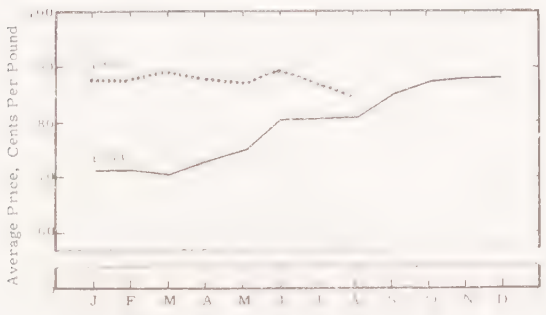
1959.....7,740,000 Lbs.

1958.....7,815,000 Lbs.

Imports of fresh and frozen salmon during the first seven months of 1959 were only about 1 percent lower than those during January - July, 1958.

Prices have dropped slightly, but are expected to firm up during the fourth quarter (Chart 19).

CHART 19 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF KING SALMON



Large dressed, frozen, at New York City

SALMON, MILD-CURED

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

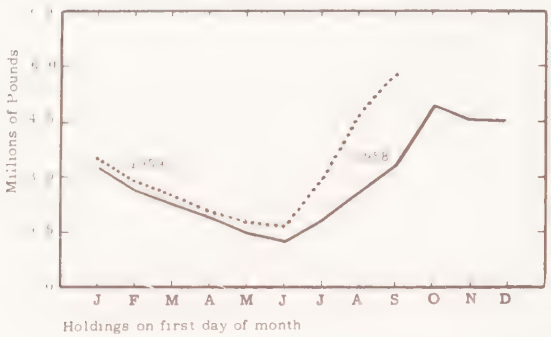
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959..... 5,799,000 Lbs.

1958..... 4,351,000 Lbs.

CHART 20 - MILD-CURED SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month

Cold-storage holdings of mild-cured salmon on September 1 were 33 percent higher than those on the same date last year (Chart 20).

Production - There has been a very good run of fine quality, large salmon in California, and the total mild-cured production was higher than that of recent years.

Prices have dropped considerably from last year, but are expected to firm up in the fourth quarter.

SALMON, CANNED

Market - Active Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Active

Alaska Pack

(Preliminary)

1959.....1,750,000 Std. Cases

1958.....2,945,000 Std. Cases

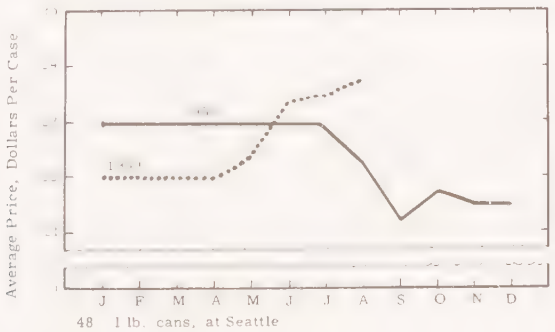
The pack of canned salmon in Alaska for the 1959 season, according to preliminary figures, was about 41 percent below that in 1958, and the lowest since the turn of the century. Pinks which represented about 36 percent of the total Alaskan pack, were 59 percent lower than the 1958 pink salmon pack. Reds comprised 33 percent, and chums 23 percent of the total. The pack of cohoes and kings were 5 percent and 3 percent of the total respectively. The pack in Puget Sound is also very low.

Imports of canned salmon through July 1959 were mostly from Japan. During the first seven months of this year, about 398,729 cases of canned salmon was imported into the United States compared with 468,104 cases in the same period in 1958. Total 1958 imports amounted to approximately 608,875 cases.

Exports of canned salmon in the January - July period of 1959 were almost five times greater than those in the first seven months of 1958. Canada and the Philippines were the principal destinations for these exports.

Wholesale prices of canned pink salmon continue very high and are expected to remain firm during the next three months (Chart 21).

CHART 21 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED PINK SALMON



48 1 lb. cans, at Seattle

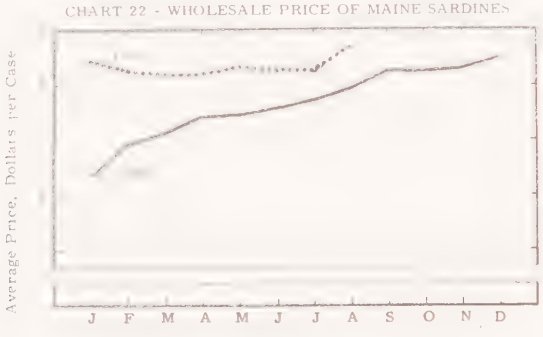
SARDINES, CANNED (MAINE)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Moderate

Pack - The Maine sardine pack through September 26 was 130,000 cases below that of last year. Most of the production this year was during June, with July and August catch very spotty. The 1959 pack will be about that of 1958 if usual catches are made during the fall months.

Prices - Wholesale prices of Maine sardines increased by approximately 50 cents per case during August (Chart 22). It is expected that prices will remain firm.

CHART 22 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MAINE SARDINES



100-3¼ ounce cans, keyless, oil pack, at New York

SARDINES, CANNED (CALIFORNIA)

Market - Unsettled Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Moderate

Landings of California sardines thus far this season have been much lower than those at this time last year, and it is expected that the total catch for 1959 will be below that of 1958.

Prices will probably remain steady during this quarter.

Exports of sardines, canned not-in-oil, through July 1959 were almost 5 times those during the first seven months of 1958. The Philippines imported about 417,000 cases of California sardines from the United States in this period.

SARDINES, CANNED

Imports of Sardines Not-in-Oil

January - July

1959..... 257,000 Lbs.

1958..... 7,889,000 Lbs.

Imports of sardines, canned not-in-oil, during the January - July period were only a fraction of those in the same period of 1958. The five year average (1950-1954) for imports, through July, of sardines, canned not-in-oil was 5.5 million pounds.

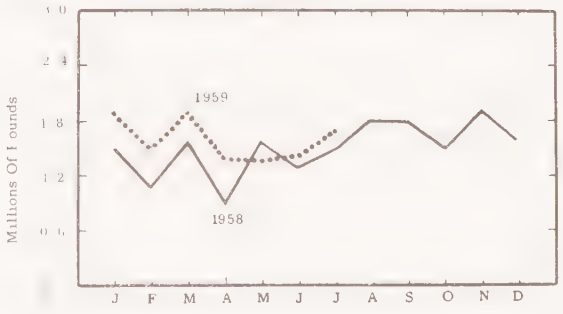
Imports of Sardines In Oil

January - July

1959..... 11,274,000 Lbs.

1958..... 9,364,000 Lbs.

CHART 23 - IMPORTS OF SARDINES CANNED IN-OIL



There was a 20 percent increase in the imports of sardines in oil during the first seven months of 1959 compared with those in the same period in 1958 (Chart 23). Imports will continue to increase in the fourth quarter with prices remaining high.

SWORDFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

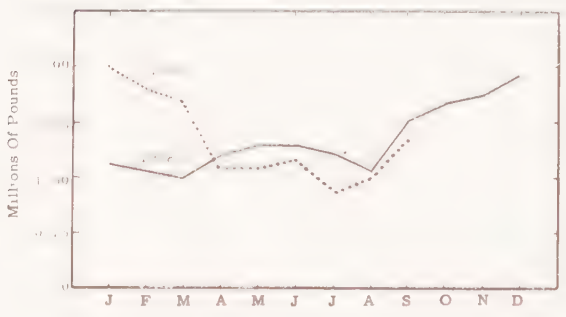
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959.....2,046,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,449,000 Lbs.

CHART 24 - SWORDFISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of swordfish on September 1 were about 16 percent lower than those on September 1, 1958 (Chart 24). A drop in swordfish production occurs during the fourth quarter.

Imports of swordfish in the first seven months of 1959 were only slightly higher than those in the same period 1958; about 9.5 million pounds were entered in the January - July period of 1959.

Prices - Because of heavy catches coupled with sizeable imports, the price for swordfish has been rather low. It is expected that prices will firm up during the fourth quarter.

TUNA

Market - Firm Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Cannery Receipts of Fresh and Frozen Tuna

California

January - August

(In Tons)

	Imports	Domestic	Total
1959	54,375	105,650	160,025
1958	45,652	117,485	163,137

California tuna cannery receipts during the first eight months of 1959 were about 2 percent lower than those in the same period in 1958. Imports, which accounted for 34 percent of total receipts, were 19 percent higher than last year, but domestic landings were down 10 percent.

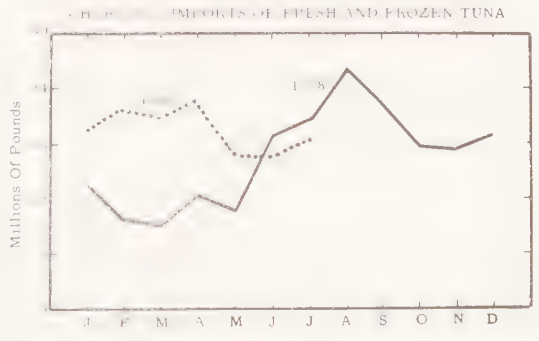
Imports, Frozen Tuna

(All U. S. Ports)

January - July

1959..... 138,151,000 Lbs.

1958..... 94,954,000 Lbs.



Imports continue high. During the January - July period, imports of frozen tuna at all United States' ports were almost 46 percent higher than they were in the same months last year (Chart 25). Albacore receipts were lower by 15 percent, but imports of other tuna were up 73 percent. It is expected that imports of tuna will continue heavy.

TUNA, CANNED

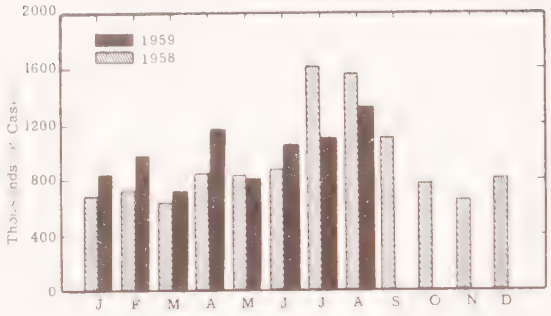
California Pack of Canned Tuna

January - August

1959..... 8,050,000 Std. Cases

1958..... 7,812,000 Std. Cases

CHART 26 - CALIFORNIA CANNED TUNA PACK



Pack - While canner receipts of frozen tuna are down 2 percent, the California pack of canned tuna during the first eight months of 1959 was up 3 percent (Chart 26), principally because of increased imports of prepared or preserved tuna, such as loins and discs. Pack is expected to fall behind toward the end of the year, since the full effect of earlier vessel tie ups is now being felt.

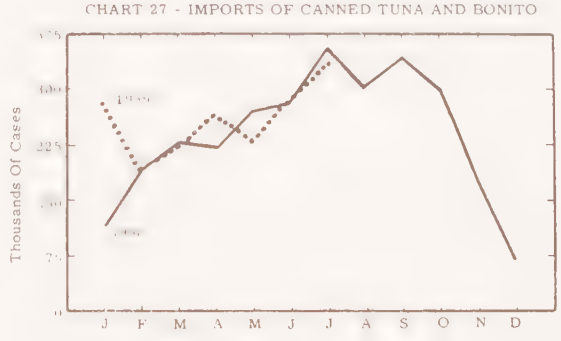
Imports of Canned Tuna and Bonito

January - July

1959..... 1,821,000 Std. Cases

1958..... 1,721,000 Std. Cases

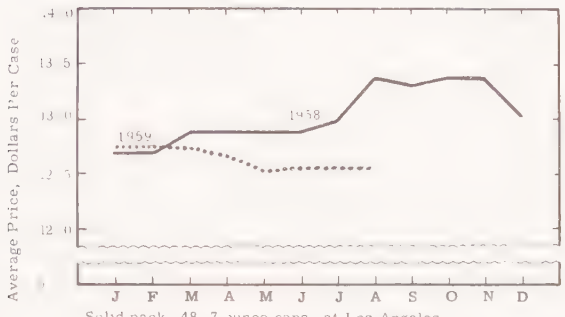
CHART 27 - IMPORTS OF CANNED TUNA AND BONITO



Imports of canned tuna and bonito through July, 1959 were about 6 percent higher than those in the same period last year (Chart 27). Receipts of tuna canned in brine amounted to 1.4 million cases. Bonita imports canned in oil were less than last year in this period, but bonito imports in brine were larger.

Through August, the wholesale price for canned light meat tuna had remained steady since May and was at the lowest since September 1957 (Chart 28). Light meat tuna could show slight advances during the fourth quarter. White meat tuna probably will remain firm.

CHART 28 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED LIGHT MEAT TUNA



Solid pack, 48 7 ounce cans, at Los Angeles.
Average of weekly quotations for Advertised Brands and Other Packers' Labels.

Albacore Tuna
Average size, 12-25 lbs.

WHITING

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

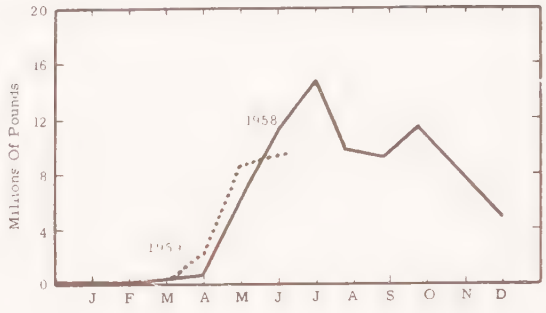
Landings, January - June

(Massachusetts)

1959.....20,626,000 Lbs.

1958.....18,513,000 Lbs.

CHART 29 - LANDINGS OF WHITING
MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of whiting in Massachusetts during the first half of 1959 were 11 percent greater than those in a similar period last year. Seasonal decline in landings will occur in the fourth quarter (Chart 29).

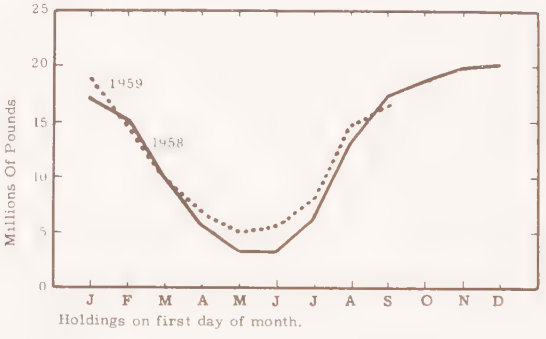
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959.....16,923,000 Lbs.

1958.....17,706,000 Lbs.

CHART 30 - WHITING IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of whiting on September 1, 1959 were 4 percent below those a year earlier (Chart 30).

Prices - There had been concern regarding the small size of whiting being landed and the effect on prices. It is expected, however, that prices will not fluctuate too much.

CLAMS, FRESH

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

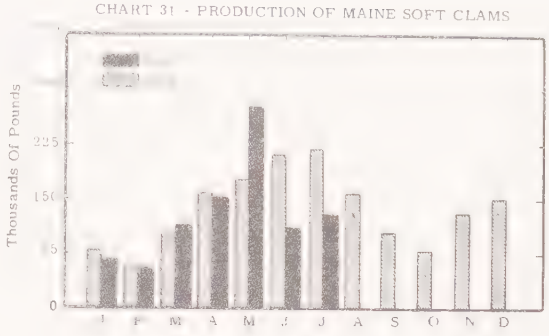
Production, January - July

Maine Soft Clams

1959..... 909,000 Lbs.

1958.....1,004,000 Lbs.

CHART 31 - PRODUCTION OF MAINE SOFT CLAMS



Production of soft clams in Maine during the January - July, 1959 continued light, and was about 9 percent below that of a year earlier (Chart 31).

Prices should remain firm.

SURF CLAMS

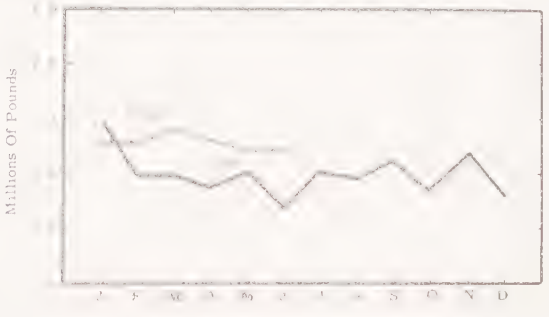
New Jersey Landings

January - June

1959.....7,762,000 Lbs.

1958.....6,227,000 Lbs.

CHART 32 - LANDINGS OF SURF CLAMS, NEW JERSEY



During the first half of 1959, there was a 5 percent increase in the production of surf clams compared with the production in the first six months of last year (Chart 32).

Prices will remain steady during the fourth quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Good

Production of crabs along the Chesapeake, South Atlantic, and Gulf areas will probably be lower than that in the fourth quarter of 1958. Thus far this year, production in the Chesapeake Bay area particularly has been disappointing. The season for Dungeness crabs begins on the Pacific coast during the last half of the fourth quarter.

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959..... 872,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,022,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of crabs and crab meat on September 1 were 57 percent below those a year earlier.

Prices should remain firm during the fourth quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED

Pack - The pack of canned crab meat in the Gulf States through the middle of September was very low. Only 3,815 standard cases (48 - 6 1/2 oz. cans) were produced since January, compared with 6,916 cases in the similar period last year.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED (Cont.)

Imports

January - July

1959.....4,754,000 Lbs.

1958.....3,490,000 Lbs.

Imports of canned crab meat during the first seven months of 1959 were 36 percent higher than those during the similar period a year earlier. Virtually all canned crab meat imports come from Japan.

Prices will continue to be high and firm in the fourth quarter.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

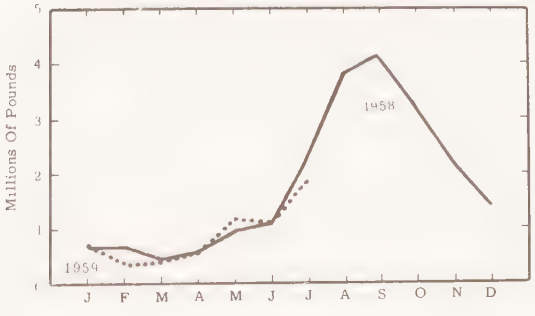
Maine Landings

January - July

1959.....6,264,000 Lbs.

1958.....6,601,000 Lbs.

CHART 33 - LANDINGS OF LOBSTERS, MAINE



Landings of lobsters in Maine through July, 1959 were 5 percent below the production during the same period in 1958 (Chart 33). During the fourth quarter, landings of lobsters are seasonally low.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN (Cont.)

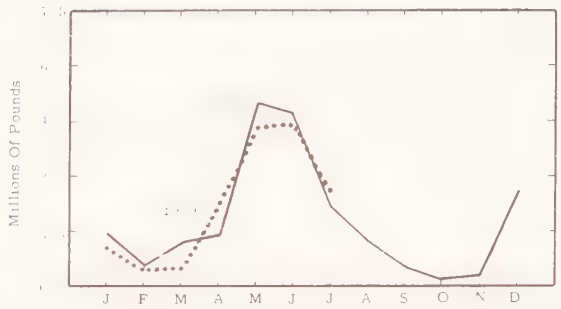
Imports from Canada

January - July

1959..... 15,572,000 Lbs.

1958..... 16,555,000 Lbs.

CHART 34 - IMPORTS OF LOBSTERS (CANADA)



Imports of lobsters from Canada through July, 1959 were 6 percent lower than those during the same period a year earlier (Chart 34). There should be an increase in these imports during the fourth quarter.

Prices will remain steady.

LOBSTERS, SPINY

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

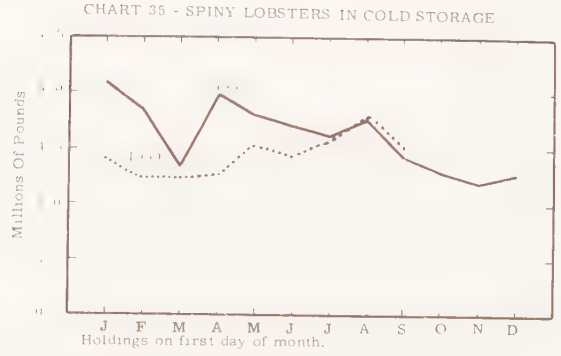
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959..... 4,468,000 Lbs.

1958..... 3,913,000 Lbs.

CHART 35 - SPINY LOBSTERS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of spiny lobsters on September 1, 1959 were 14 percent higher than those on the same date a year earlier (Chart 35).

LOBSTERS, SPINY (Cont.)

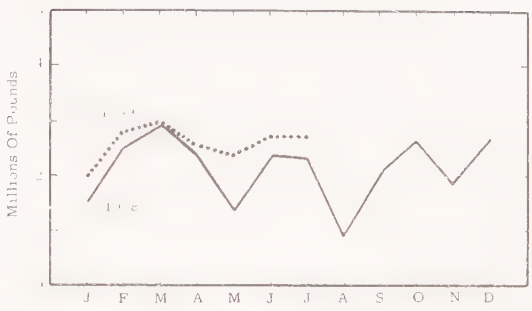
Imports

January - July

1959..... 18,393,000 Lbs.

1958..... 15,469,000 Lbs.

CHART 36 - IMPORTS OF SPINY LOBSTERS



Imports of spiny lobsters during the first seven months of 1959 were 19 percent higher than those in the similar period in 1958 (Chart 36). These imports have a tendency to increase during the last quarter.

OYSTERS, FRESH-SHUCKED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Active

Production of oysters on the East and Gulf coasts will probably be slightly lower in the fourth quarter this year than last.

Prices for shucked oysters will continue high.

OYSTERS, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Very little oyster canning will be done before the first of next year. The '58 - '59 season pack was about 12 percent higher than that of the year earlier.

Prices will remain firm during the fourth quarter.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Good

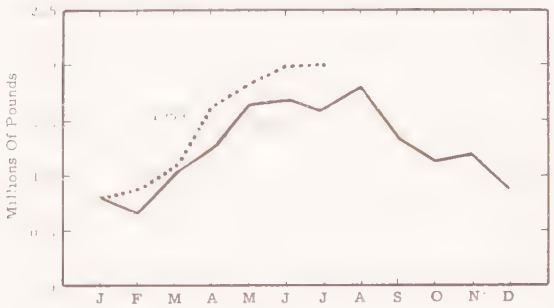
New Bedford Landings

January - August

1959..... 12,295,000 Lbs.

1958..... 10,679,000 Lbs.

CHART 37 - LANDINGS OF SCALLOPS, NEW BEDFORD



Shucked weight (lbs. of meat).

Landings of scallops during the first eight months of 1959 were 15 percent higher than those during the same period in 1958. Thus far this year, landings have been at an unprecedented rate. Some seasonal decline in the fourth quarter (Chart 37).

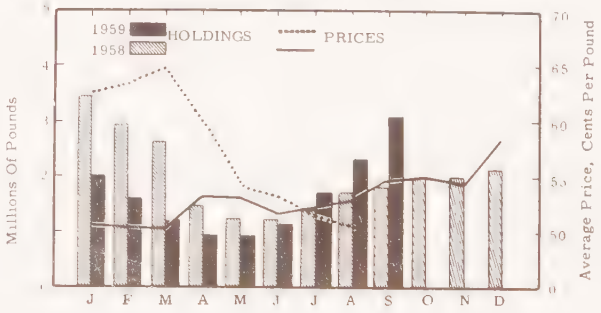
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1959..... 3,113,000 Lbs.

1958..... 1,826,000 Lbs.

CHART 38 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SCALLOPS



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - Domestic 5-lb carton, at Boston.

Cold-storage holdings on September 1 were almost 71 percent higher than those on the same date a year earlier (Chart 38).

Prices, which reached a high in March this year, have declined steadily since then and are expected to decrease further before leveling off (Chart 38).

SHRIMP, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Landings

January - July

Headless

1959.....40,246,000 Lbs.

1958.....42,249,000 Lbs.

The landings of shrimp in the Gulf coastal areas during the first seven months of 1959 were about 5 percent below those in the same period in 1958. Seasonally, the beginning of the fourth quarter is the period of peak production in the Gulf States.

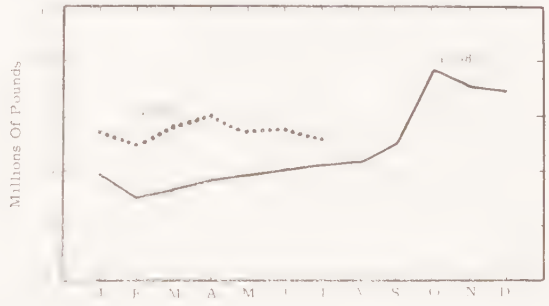
Imports

January - July

1959.....57,687,000 Lbs.

1958.....38,618,000 Lbs.

CHART 39 IMPORTS OF SHRIMP



Imports of shrimp through July of 1959 were almost 50 percent higher than they were during the first seven months of last year (Chart 39). Continued heavy imports are anticipated in the fourth quarter.

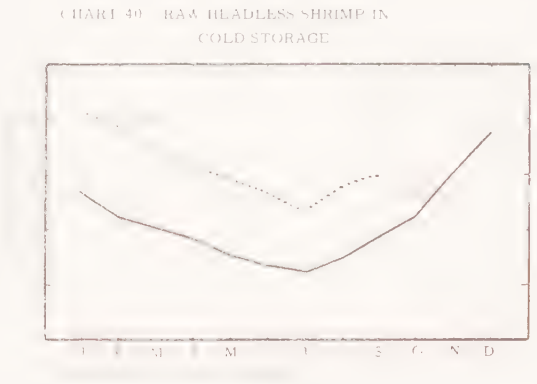
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

(Raw Headless)

1959..... 23, 985, 000 Lbs.

1958..... 15, 274, 000 Lbs.



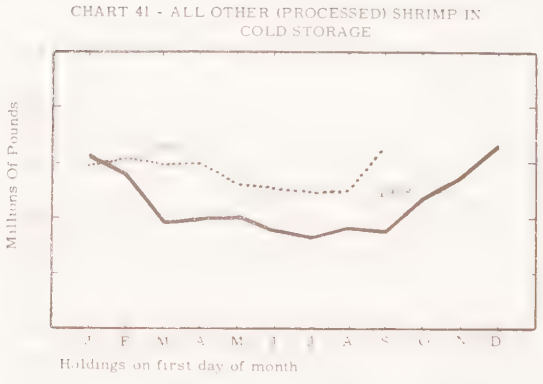
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

(All Others)

1959..... 9, 691, 000 Lbs.

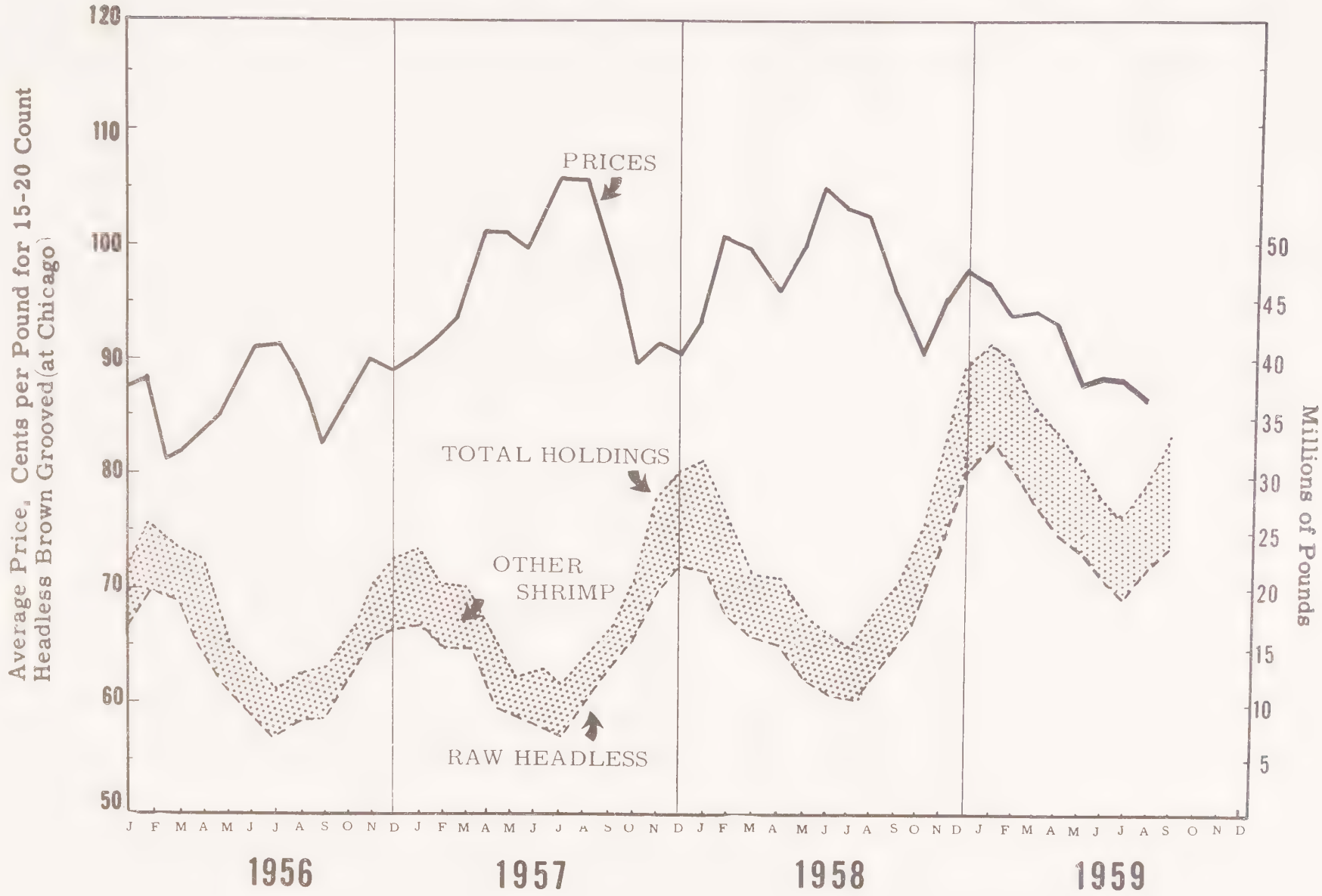
1958..... 5, 564, 000 Lbs.



Cold-storage holdings of raw headless shrimp on September 1 were 57 percent higher than those on the corresponding date last year. Holdings of all other frozen shrimp, including breaded, were up 74 percent (Charts 40 and 41).

Prices continue to drop, but are expected to become firmer during the fourth quarter. Demand has increased since the lower prices were reflected at retail level.

CHART 42 - SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE AND WHOLESALE PRICES



SHRIMP, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Pack

Gulf States

Season Pack

August 1958 - July 31, 1959.....864,008 Std. Cases

August 1957 - July 31, 1958.....585,926 Std. Cases

Pack of canned shrimp in the Gulf States for the 1958/59 season was almost 48 percent higher than that in the previous season. Production should continue at a steady pace throughout most of the last quarter.

There seems to be an abundant supply of ocean shrimp in the Pacific Northwest compared to last year, but since many packers are carrying heavy inventories, only a few shrimping boats have been employed.

Prices are expected to be lower in the fourth quarter as production outraces demand.

Cold-Storage Holdings

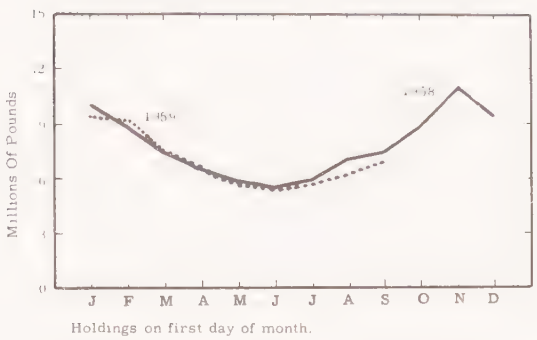
September 1

(United States)

1959..... 6,855,000 Lbs.

1958..... 7,875,000 Lbs.

CHART 43 - FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

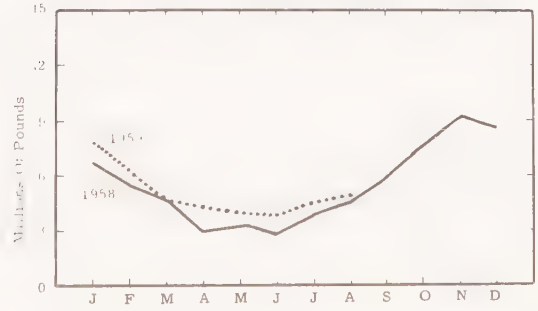
August 1

(Canada)

1959..... 5,025,000 Lbs.

1958..... 4,632,000 Lbs.

CHART 44 - CANADIAN FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of fresh-water fish in the United States on September 1 were 13 percent lower than those on the same date last year (Chart 43). Canadian holdings on August 1 were almost 9 percent higher than those on August 1, 1958 (Chart 44).

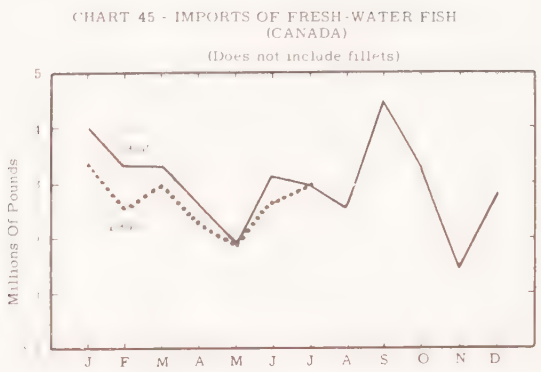
Fish Imports

(Canada)

January - July

1959..... 18, 900, 000 Lbs.

1958..... 21, 200, 000 Lbs.



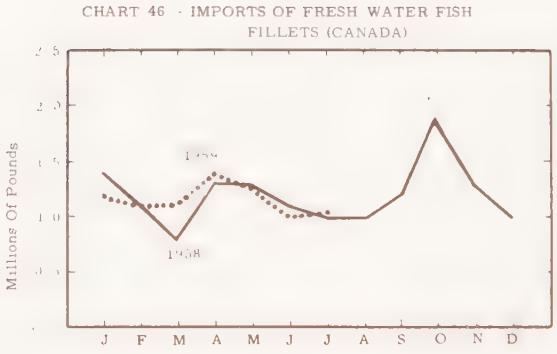
Fillet Imports

(Canada)

January - July

1959..... 8, 147, 000 Lbs.

1958..... 7, 890, 000 Lbs.



Imports of fresh-water fish, (other than fillets), from Canada during the first seven months of 1959 were 11 percent lower than those in the same period a year earlier (Chart 45). Receipts of fresh-water fillets from Canada, however, were about 3 percent higher than in the same period last year (Chart 46).

Prices should remain steady.

FISH OIL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Moderate

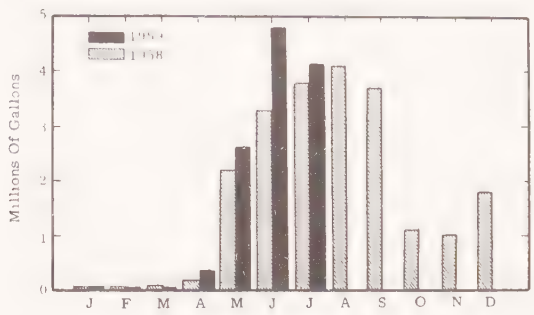
Production

January - July

1959.....12,317,733 Gals.

1958..... 9,763,767 Gals.

CHART 47 - FISH OIL PRODUCTION



Production of fish oils through July, 1959 was 26 percent greater than that in the corresponding period last year (Chart 47). There is a seasonal decline in production during the last quarter.

Exports, January - July

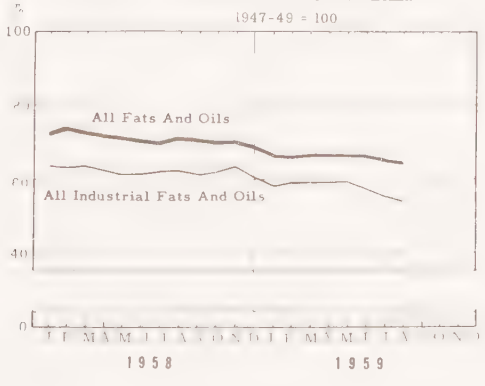
1959.....77,633,000 Lbs.

1958.....38,336,000 Lbs.

Exports of inedible fish oils during the first seven months of 1959 were more than double those in the same 1958 period. Considerable increases in shipments to Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, and West Germany offset sharp declines in exports to Canada.

Wholesale price index for all fats and oils for August, 1959 was 64.8, a decline of 6.1 points from August, 1958. The index for all industrial fats and oils at 54.1 was 7.6 points below that for the same month last year (Chart 48).

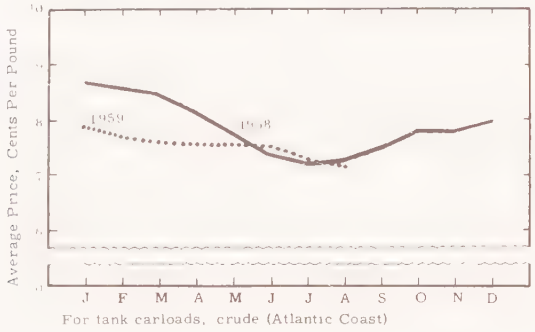
CHART 48 - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES



FISH OIL (Cont.)

Wholesale price of menhaden oil in August was 7.14 cents per pound, a decrease of 3 percent from the price in August, 1958 (Chart 49). It is expected that the price will become firm in the fourth quarter.

CHART 49 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN OIL



For tank carloads, crude (Atlantic Coast)

FISH MEAL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Moderate

Production

January - July

1959.....144,865 Tons

1958.....106,394 Tons

Production of fish meal through July, 1959 was 36 percent greater than that in the first seven months of 1958. Production tends to taper off in the fourth quarter.

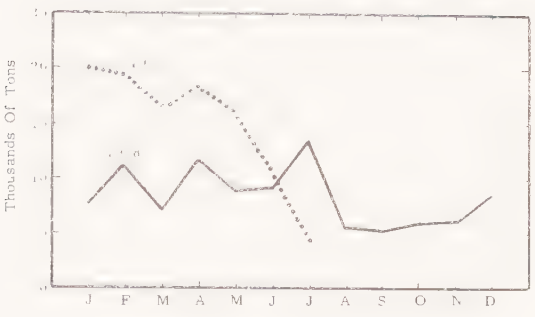
Imports

January - July

1959..... 105,724 Tons

1958..... 69,492 Tons

CHART 50 - IMPORTS OF FISH MEAL



During the January - July period of 1959, imports of fish meal were about 52 percent higher than they were in the corresponding period a year earlier. However, the monthly receipts since April have shown a steady decline (Chart 50).

CHART 51 - WHOLESALE FEEDSTUFF PRICE INDEX
1947-49 = 100

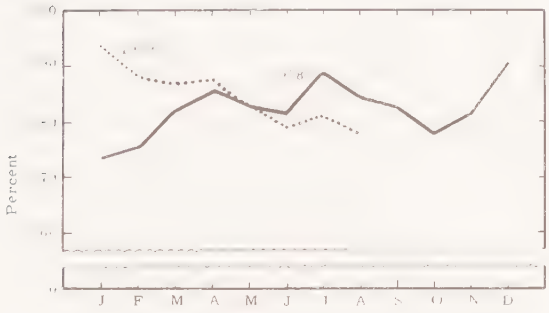
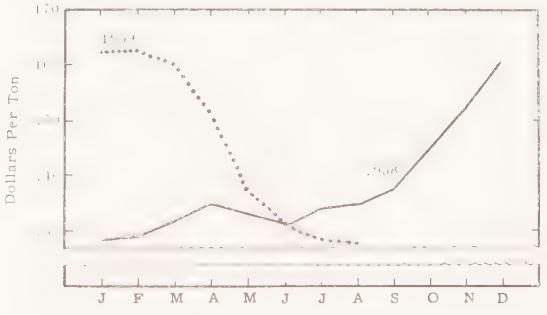


CHART 52 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN MEAL



For 60% protein, burlap bag, at Eastern ports.

Wholesale feedstuff price index for August was 78.0, down 6.1 points from the year earlier, and 3.0 points lower than the preceding month (Chart 51).

Wholesale price for menhaden meal in August was at a low $127.50 per ton (Chart 52). Price will probably remain low and steady during fourth quarter because of substantial increase in menhaden landings.

The statements appearing in this report are interpretations of past experiences influenced by current indications of what probably will occur. Wide use is made of interviews and correspondence with representative members of the commercial fishing industry, in order to obtain the opinions of the trade as to the business conditions generally expected to prevail during the period of the year covered by the report. Five-year averages are no longer shown because of realignments in statistical reporting.

Sources of Chart Data

Chart 2, U. S. Department of Labor
Charts 10, 23, 25, 27, 34, 36, 39, 45, 46, 50, U. S. Department of Commerce
Charts 48, 51, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Charts 16, 26, California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Fisheries Branch
Chart 44, Canadian Bureau of Statistics

Market Terms Used in This Report

The terms under the headings Market, Supplies, and Demand are intended to indicate the degree of market activity produced by the particular supply and demand situation.

Market refers to movement of supplies and the price structure.

Supplies refer to available stocks, i. e. receipts, imports, cold-storage holdings, and processed fish and shellfish. The terms used are relative and do not signify any particular quantity.

Demand measures the readiness of the trade to absorb supplies.

Market	Supplies	Demand
Excited	Very heavy	Exceeds supply
Stronger	Heavy	Brisk
Strong	Liberal	Active
Active	Moderate-to-Liberal	Good
Firm	Moderate	Improving
Steady	Light-to-Moderate	Moderate
Unsettled	Light	Light
Dull		Slow
Weak		Practically no demand
Demoralized		No demand

Prices refer to those at wholesale or comparable level.

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Demand and Price Situation
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Feed Market Summary
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Business News Reports
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Monthly Wholesale Trade Report
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